

Africa (seven writers). About half of the writers chosen are already well known: Sembene Ousmane, Chinua Achebe, Nadine Gordimer, Ama Ata Aidoo, Ngugi wa Thiong'o, and Ezekiel Mphahlele, for example. The stories chosen from their works, however, are not the ones most commonly known.

It is obvious that the intention here is to "add to" the public's African library rather than to provide a basic text for new readers. Even so, the result is a book which will serve both the initiated reader and the classroom student. Heinemann's *African Writers Series* No. 270 is definitely recommended reading.

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Margaret B. Blackman. *During My Time: Florence Edenshaw Davidson, a Haida Woman*. (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1982) xvii, 172 pp., \$19.95 cloth, \$8.95 paper.

This book is a recorded autobiography, but it is also much more. In the preface Blackman traces her connections with the Haida people of the Northwest Coast since 1970 and explains her special relationship with Florence Edenshaw Davidson whom she promised in 1973 that she would someday publish the record of her life. Davidson had accepted Margaret Blackman as a grandchild and the special kinship relationship enabled the two of them in 1977 to record the life story of the eighty-one year old Haida woman. Nani, the Haida equivalent for "grandmother," traces through six chapters the significant events of her life, remembering the stories told about the times before her birth and elaborating on the changes she has experienced within her own lifetime. In her recollections she fulfills the mandate of the name Story Maid which her father had given her at birth.

Blackman frames the narrative of Davidson's life with anthropological information on the culture of the Haida, includes an orthography of the Haida language, and provides a bibliography for further study. Photographs bring to life the people discussed in the account. Blackman's description of her methodology gives the reader insight into how life histories are collected and provides the context for her work. She presents theoretical information on the purposes and values of life histories and gives a personal account of the circumstances surrounding her relationship with Florence Davidson.

As Blackman points out, life histories provide a longitudinal view of the changes in a culture. Davidson was born in 1896 and had lived through the changes described in the anthropological literature. Her experiences give credence to those accounts and add a female perspective to earlier studies which almost always dealt with male experience.

Of special interest in this account is the information provided about the role of women among the Haida. Davidson tells of her own puberty seclusion and arranged marriage and then compares the past practices to the present. Her role within her culture has been a traditional one in spite of her acceptance of Christianity and modern technology. Throughout her life she gave and participated in potlatches, tended to the dead, and maintained the sense of history of her people. Her life is a testament to the flexibility of Haida women who, like Davidson, were able to blend Haida and Euro-Canadian values and practices and remain whole.

Florence Davidson had final control over the manuscript and Blackman points out that some parts were omitted at Davidson's request. To supplement the edited version of the autobiography, Blackman provides a brief section of an unedited portion of the narrative which is about Davidson's arranged marriage. This section complements Blackman's description of methodology and gives the reader a sense of Davidson's narrative style.

This text is appropriate for introductory anthropology courses, women's studies courses, and general humanities courses. It is a combination of literature, history, anthropology, sociology, philosophy, politics, and religious studies. As Blackman points out, "... the basic fabric of ethnology is woven from the scraps of individual's lives, from the experiences and knowledge of individual informants." Florence Edenshaw Davidson is a delightful informant, an elder who provides a link between the past and the present and through her story guarantees that the Haida of Queen Charlotte Islands will not forget who they have been and who they are.

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